

TASK FORCE 59426 RECEIVED AT 181549Z Dec 81

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STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF, CR/E, CRES/ARO, EPS/EG-2,
 D/FBIS-2, IAD/CAS-3, IAD/IC, ICS/HTO, NIO/PE, NIO/USSR, ODPH-H, ODPN-N,
 ODPH-S, OER-3, OGI/E/ED, OGI/I/PI, OGI/R-2, OIA/EREB, OOE/EE/R,
 OOE/EEPO-3, OPA/II, OSA/CS/CA, OSA/EA/G, OSA/SE, OSA/SE/I, OSA/SE/R,
 OSR/MEE, OSR/SE, OSR/SF, OSR/TF, PLANFAC-E, POLE-E, RF, SE-3,

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 O 181350Z DEC 81
 FM AMCONSUL KRAKOW
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2677
 ZEN/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1760
 ZEN/AMCONSUL POZNAN (BY POUCH)
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L KRAKOW 1000

E.O. 12065: SDS 12/18/87 (BASTIANI, CARL A.) OR-M
 TAGS: PORS, PINT, PL
 SUBJECT: CIVIL UNREST IN SOUTHERN POLAND

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SIX COAL MINERS DIED AND THIRTY OTHERS WERE WOUNDED IN A CLASH WITH THE MILITIA AT THE KATOWICE COAL MINE, "WUJEK". THE ARMY IS REFUSING TO CARRY OUT ANY FURTHER ORDERS AT THE COAL MINE. HOLDING MILITIA MEMBERS AS HOSTAGES INSIDE THE MINE, THE MINERS ARE ANNOUNCING THEY WILL FIGHT "UNTIL VICTORIOUS."

3. A SLIP OF PAPER WITH THE PRECEDING INFORMATION WAS PASSED HAND-TO-HAND AMONG AN OVERFLOW CROWD OF ABOUT 1,500 PEOPLE GATHERED AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FRONT SIDE ENTRANCES OF THE MARIACKI CHURCH IN KRAKOW'S MAIN SQUARE, WHILE MASS WAS BEING CELEBRATED INSIDE TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATHS OF STRIKERS IN GDANSK ON DEC. 17, 1970. THE SERMON AT MASS WAS NOT GIVEN BY CARDINAL MACHARSKI, AS HAD BEEN EARLIER RUMORED. THE SERMON GIVEN WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO AN APPEAL FOR PRAYER FOR POLAND'S

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FUTURE.

4. INFORMATION ON STRIKERS STILL OCCUPYING THE LENIN STEEL WORKS IN NOWA HUTA WAS ALSO PASSED AMONG THE CROWD. THEY ARE HOLDING OUT IN A FUEL STORAGE AREA, AND ARE REQUESTING FOOD. WITNESSES DESCRIBED ALSO HOW TANKS AND WATER CANNON HAD DISPERSED DEMONSTRATORS IN NOWA HUTA'S MAIN SQUARE THAT DAY.

5. FOLLOWING THE MASS, A LARGE CROWD (APPROX. 5,000) GATHERED AROUND THE BASE OF THE MICKIEWICZ MEMORIAL AT THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE. THEY CHANTED SLOGANS SUCH AS: "THE ARMY KILLS"; "FREE WALESA" AND "INDEPENDENCE", FULLY AWARE OF THE NUMBERS OF ARMY PATROLS (EACH FIVE MEN STRONG) AT THE EDGE OF THE SQUARE, AS WELL AS OF THE LARGE CONTINGENT OF MILITIA, WAITING IN TRANSPORT TRUCKS IN THE SIDE STREETS. WHEN THE CROWD TOOK UP THE CHANT "SOLIDARITY" WHICH WAS GREETED WITH VIGOROUS APPLAUSE FROM EVEN THOSE AT THE PERIMETERS, TWO ARMORED VEHICLES WITH WATER CANNONS RACED ONTO THE SQUARE AND SCATTERED THE CROWD. THE MILITIA AND ARMY UNITS SEALED OFF THE SQUARE, PREVENTING ANY DEMONSTRATORS FROM RETURNING. NO INJURIES OR ARRESTS WERE OBSERVED.

6. COMMENT: INCIDENT WAS EARLIER REPORTED BY A CAR WITH MEN FROM KATOWICE SOLIDARITY. THE CAR CIRCULATED AROUND KRAKOW AT 12 NOON YESTERDAY (DEC 17) INFORMING PEOPLE OF THE VIOLENCE AT THE WUJEK COAL MINE. AN AMERICAN ART STUDENT LISTENED TO THE INFORMATION AND CAME DIRECTLY AFTERWARD TO THE CONSULATE. SHE SAID SOLIDARITY HAD REPORTED THAT SIX COAL MINERS HAD BEEN KILLED WHEN POLICE ATTACKED THE STRIKERS AT WUJEK. THE MINERS FOUGHT BACK, TOOK THREE ZOMO AS HOSTAGES AND WENT DIRECTLY UNDERGROUND WHERE PROVISIONS ARE STORED.
BASTIANI

END OF MESSAGE

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